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Letter dated 1 March 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Despite several positive developments in the past months, there continue to be worrying signs of instability in the Balkans.

Since their appointment as my Special Envoys for the Balkans, Mr. Carl Bildt and Mr. Eduard Kukan have maintained contacts with Governments in the Balkans, as well as those within the international community who are working to promote peace and stability in the region. The Special Envoys have provided advice to me and to senior officials within the Secretariat in formulating United Nations policy towards the Balkans. They have periodically briefed the Security Council in informal consultations and in open debates. They have represented me at diverse regional forums and conferences, including the structures of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe.

At this delicate juncture, it would seem especially useful for my Special Envoys for the Balkans to pursue their contacts with Governments and other actors who may be in a position to help calm an atmosphere, which, if further aggravated, could have serious repercussions for the region. I have accordingly asked Mr. Bildt and Mr. Kukan to continue their efforts until mid-year, and beyond if required.

I should be grateful if you would bring this to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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